



CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
AND
COMMUNITY
SERVICE

NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER

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GOT RESOURCES?

The National Service Resource Center [NSRC] provides quick access to training and technical assistance resources for national service programs. All materials are freely available to programs funded by the Corporation for National and Community Service: AmeriCorps, Senior Corps, and Learn and Serve America.

Visit <http://nationalserviceresources.org> or contact the toll free line at 800-860-2684 and find solutions for your program needs through the following sections available:

- Online documents and sample forms
- Listservs
- Newsletters
- Training and Technical Assistance resources
- Grants listing
- Lending library catalog supplement lists 128 new books and 28 new videos that you can borrow; the return postage is the only cost to you.
- Effective practices-become part of this dynamic collection by submitting an effective practice on-line.
- Conference and training calendar
- Links to useful websites

The National Service Resource Center is a project of ETR Associates funded by the Corporation

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK APRIL 18-24

A Proclamation by President Bush delivered on April 16, 2004 included these remarks....

The strength of America lies in the hearts and souls of our citizens. Across our country, citizens are donating their time and talents to improving lives and strengthening communities. During National Volunteer Week, we recognize and celebrate those who serve a cause greater than self.

Last year, more than 63 million Americans gave their time to helping in their communities, an increase of 4 million from the prior year. Through the dedicated efforts of America's volunteers, we are building a culture of service, responsibility, and compassion, particularly among our young people.



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Upcoming Events

- National Volunteer Week
April 18-24
- "Join Hands Day"
May 1
- National Association of
State Commission's
[ASC] Conference—
Kansas City~ June 3-6
- National "Points of Light"
Conference-Kansas City
June 6-8

THIS JUST IN:

The estimated dollar value of volunteer time is \$17.19 per hour for 2003, according to a new announcement from the Independent Sector

Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission 2004-2005

Executive Director
Debra Hartmann

Honorary Chair
Stephanie Johanns

Chair
Jamesena Moore

Vice Chair
John Manna

**Organizational Development
Committee**
Rick Nation, Chair

Outreach Committee
Cynthia Buettner, Chair

Program Committee
Doug Gibbs, Chair

Susan Aguilar
Patrick Beans
Colleen Bostock-Zoubek
Beatty Brasch
Susan Cook
W. Gary Gates
John "Mike" Kissler
Curt Krueger
Yvonne Norton Leung
Arthur May
Diann Muhlback
G.W. "Gerry" Osborn
Jim Pace
Ron Sedlacek
Nancy Wang
Lois Wine

COMMISSION NEWS FROM DEBRA



Debra Hartmann, Executive Director

The Rulemaking Process

A more stable Corporation for National and Community Service recently asked those "in the field" to provide advice on how best to address the myriad concerns of Congress, the Administration, and others concerning AmeriCorps. Typically, an agency will publish a draft "rule" and seek public comment for a time before finalizing the rule. However, a proactive David Eisner, CEO of the Corporation, sought input before drafting the rule. He sought comment addressing key issues: sustainability, federal cost share, performance measures and evaluation, the timing of the grant cycle, qualifications for tutors, and grant periods. Public forums were held in Columbus, Ohio, Boston, Seattle, Washington DC, and Arlington, Texas, and conference calls provided other opportunities to comment.

The final call was held April 5th and the Corporation is now drafting the rule. Once the rule is released, the public will have 60 days to comment before a final rule is published, sometime in the fall. The hope is that clarity on these key issues will provide some stability to the requirements of AmeriCorps programs, year to year.

Thank you to those who responded to the call for comments—it was important for you to make your voices heard. The Corporation's website (<http://www.americorps.org/rulemaking/>) has more information on the rulemaking process and transcripts of the public forums.

CHAT WITH THE CHAIR...



Jamie Moore
Commission Chair

Reflections

2003 was a good year. We fulfilled our mission "*to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans...through volunteer and community service.*" As a result, the lives of thousands of Nebraskans were touched. Over 27,000 volunteers were organized and strategic partnerships formed with Woodmen of the World Insurance Company; other Corporation for National Service funded programs, such as Senior Corps RSVP; the Nebraska Emergency Management; the Volunteer and Community Service Foundation of Nebraska; the Sowers; and United Way of the Midlands to hold our signature event, the Governor's Conference on Volunteer and Community Service. It was a success.

More than \$150,000 in in-kind donations was raised to support our administrative work and \$1,786,647 federal dollars received were leveraged to make an economic impact of \$4,772,778. This represents a return of nearly \$3 for every \$1 investment in Nebraska. Volunteer and community service that encompassed a wide range of tasks from YouthBuild AmeriCorps members building two houses to 18,262 students participating in service-learning activities to 888 individuals benefiting from conflict mediation was supported in 28 counties.

Volunteers were recognized quarterly by the Governor's Points of Light Award and the annual First Lady's Awards. A special message campaign was conducted to recognize the efforts of U.S. Soldiers serving overseas.

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve you, my neighbor, and to serve with you serving our

JOIN HANDS DAY MAY 1, 2004

The unique focus of JOIN HANDS DAY is to connect young people and adults in neighborhood volunteering. This national service day is designed to create friendships across generations that help break down age barriers while getting valuable work done for the community.

Nationally, JOIN HANDS DAY is sponsored by America's Fraternal Benefits Societies, the Points of Light Foundation and the Volunteer Center National Network. For more information or to register your project, visit the event website at www.joinhandsday.org. Local efforts are being coordinated by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, Volunteer Partners, Lincoln Action Program and the Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission. In addition, many different non-profit organizations and service clubs are hosting JOIN HANDS DAY projects as well.

You can get involved by signing up to participate in a JOIN HANDS DAY project. One project that is currently looking for volunteers is the Be a Team Player: 6 for Self Sufficiency product drive. Volunteers will be needed to pick up collection barrels April 30-May 3 and on May 1-2 to help sort collected items. Contact Martha Hakenkamp at Volunteer Partners, 435-2100 or

NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION 10 YEARS OF SERVICE

Since 1994

- 2,500 members have served in AmeriCorps programs across Nebraska
- More than 2,050 members have earned education awards
- \$9,250,000 in education awards have been awarded
- 30 programs have impacted Nebraska communities



2004 National Conference on Community Volunteering and National Service Changing our Communities — One Volunteer at a Time June 6-8, 2004 Kansas City, MO

The National Conference is the premier venue for members of the national service family to get together to share practical knowledge and spread the message of national service and volunteering. Join more than 3,000 of your colleagues to think about new ways of bringing together the resources of non-profit, business, government, education, faith-based, national service, and other sectors of our society to foster a renewed culture of citizenship, service, and responsibility.

Volunteer Management Capacity in America's Charities: Request for Feedback and Recommendations

In February 2004, the Corporation for National and Community Service, the USA Freedom Corps and The UPS Foundation unveiled the first-ever national study of volunteer management at nonprofits. Conducted in 2003 by the Urban Institute, the research focused on how nonprofits recruit, engage and manage volunteers and what value volunteers add to social service programs. The study found that more than 80 percent of nonprofits rely on volunteers for critical activities, but freely admit they do not have the resources or knowledge to engage and manage those volunteers as fully as they would like. In addition, the study found the more time a volunteer coordinator dedicated to the management of volunteers, the better a charity is prepared to take on additional volunteers and to have effective programs.

The study is the first phase of a broader initiative to help strengthen the capacity of the nonprofit sector through the effective recruitment and management of volunteers. Over the course of the next month, the research sponsors are soliciting feedback to the study findings and recommendations for addressing those findings. This is your opportunity to shape how the sector - and the funding community - will respond to volunteer management capacity needs!

Please provide your feedback on www.volunteerinput.org by May 7, 2004. Copies of the research report, survey instrument and background information are available on the website.

NEBRASKA VOLUNTEER SERVICE COMMISSION

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Email: nvsc@hhss.state.ne.us

Serve Your Neighbor. Serve Your Community. Serve Your

Our Mission

"The Nebraska Volunteer Service Commission was established 1994 to promote, mobilize, and support the efforts of all Nebraskans who are united in strengthening their communities, state, and nation through volunteer and community service."

Were On The Web!
www.nol.org/home/NVSC



ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



The AmeriCorps Newsletter Sign up to receive the next issue!

The AmeriCorps eNewsletter is a FREE monthly publication that keeps you up to date with AmeriCorps. Each month, AmeriCorps news, member profiles, program and project highlights, event listings and more!

<http://www.americorps.org/enews/>

[additional_info.html](#)

A Literacy Resource

The READSlist Listserv is for experts and practitioners in the field of literacy to share:

- Best practices
- Literature
- Curriculum
- Ideas on how to mobilize volunteers for this effort
- Ideas on how to access work-study funds
- Evaluation strategies

To subscribe, send a blank e-mail to join-readslist@lists.etr.org. Messages may be read and posted, and subscrip-

DO-IT

Do-It: Disabilities, Opportunities, Internetworking, and Technology, is an organization that supports students with disabilities through the University of Washington.

Many projects funded by the federal government corporations and private foundations are not fully accessible to potential participants who have disabilities. Their websites are not designed to be accessible to individuals who are blind and using text-to-speech systems, events are scheduled in inconvenient and even inaccessible locations, publications are not available in alternate formats.

DO-IT's new publication, *Equal Access: Designing Your Project to Be Accessible to All Participants*, is designed to help projects make their information resources and activities accessible to participants with disabilities. You can find it at: <http://www.washington.edu/doi/Brochures/Programs/design.html>.